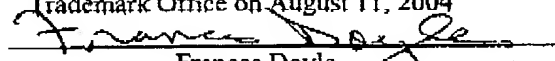


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Attorney Docket No.: FUSA 17.732 (100807-16875)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: SATORU KOMATSU, et al.  
Confirmation No.: 6178  
Serial No.: 09/660,226  
Filed: September 12, 2000  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING ...  
Examiner: CHRISTOPHER M. SWICKHAMER  
Group Art Unit: 2662

August 11, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, and in connection with a Request for Continued  
Examination (RCE) Transmittal filed concurrently herewith, please amend the subject  
application as follows:

11187122.01